

Female valets back, by George

Probably the most influential wrestler ever in the United States was a man known as Gorgeous George.

George popularized bleached-blond hair and fancy ring jackets in 1949 when pro wrestling was the rage of the early TV era.

Later on, George had a female valet — his wife, Cherie — accompany him to the ring and spray disinfectant in the corners.

Female valets didn't catch on right away like fancy ring jackets or bleached hair. But some 30 years later, they suddenly became a staple.

In 1983, "Gorgeous" Jimmy Garvin came to Texas with a valet called Sunshine (Valerie French). Later that year, he introduced a second valet, Precious (his wife, Patty) and the result was the proverbial love triangle. The Sunshine-Precious feud was one of the key reasons World Class Championship Wrestling was the nation's hottest promotion that year.

When something is that successful in wrestling, everybody copies it. Soon there were valets coming out of everyone's ears. Most didn't last long. With the exception of the World Wrestling Federation's Elizabeth (Elizabeth Poffo, wife of Randy [Macho Man] Savage), who has never actually wrestled in the ring, and Miss Hyatt (who started with World Class and now is a television co-host for the National Wrestling Alliance on TBS), most of the valets from the mid-'80s have faded from the scene.

The fad of feuding, scantily clad bombshells who weren't wrestlers seemed to have run its course about three years ago. But this year, valet feuds have made a comeback. There's Sapphire and Queen Sensational Sherri in the WWF, Ginger and Tailor-made Medina in Oregon, Tessa and the Dirty White Girl in Tennessee, and the most interesting pairing of them all, Toni Adams and Jeannie Clark in Texas. What makes the latter pairing so intriguing is that Toni is the current wife of Texas good-guy Chris Adams and Jeannie was his first wife.

The soap opera-like scenario started when "Stunning" Steve Austin, a rookie trained by Adams who then betrayed him, brought out Jeannie as his valet.



**GRUNT
AND
GRIN**

BY DAVE MELTZER
FOR THE NATIONAL

Chad
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ETC: The National Wrestling Alliance is running a live TBS special Sept. 5 called "The Fall Brawl" from Asheville, N.C. The double headliner sends **Sting** vs. **The Black Scorpion** for the NWA title and **Lex Luger** vs. **Ric Flair** for the U.S. title. . . . Former British Bulldog **Dave Boy Smith** is returning to the WWF. **Randy (Macho Man) Savage** is taking a six-week vacation from WWF rings and will return in October for a series of matches with WWF champ **The Ultimate Warrior**. . . . **Top 10 in the world based on ring work:** (1) **Jushin Riger**, Japan; (2) **Ric Flair**, NWA; (3) **Mr. Perfect**, WWF; (4) **Negro Casas**, Mexico; (5) **Bobby Eaton**, NWA; (6) **Yoshihiro Asai**, Mexico; (7) **Jumbo Tsuruta**, Japan; (8) **Arn Anderson**, NWA; (9) **The Great Muta**, Japan; (10) **Ricky Steamboat**, SAW.